

REMARKS

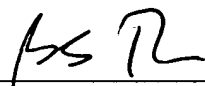
Claims 26-42 and 82 are pending. Claims 1-25 and 43-81 have been canceled. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 28-39 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. To advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 26 to add the limitations of claim 28.

The Examiner rejected claims 26, 27, 40-42 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moll (U.S. Patent No. 5,309,896) in view of the publication "Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery by Cardioscopy" by William Peters (Peters). Applicants have amended claims 26, 29-32, 34, 36 and 82 in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative if a discussion of the pending claims would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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